

Message Text

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EXDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. UNGA SPECIAL SESSION - CONSULTATION WITH THE SOVIETS:
ACCORDING TO ALEKSEY NESTERENKO, WHO IS ACCOMPANYING
FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO TO NEW YORK, THE SOVIET
APPROACH TO THE SPECIAL SESSION WILL INCLUDE:

--SYMPATHY TOWARDS THE PROBLEMS OF THE LDC'S, BUT
NO OPTIMISM ON FINDING SOLUTIONS;

--RELUCTANCE TO SEE THE SESSION GET INTO ANY
CONCRETE MEASURES, AND OPPOSITION TO THE
CREATION OF ANY NEW BODIES;

--WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS ENERGY MATTERS, BUT
MAINTENANCE OF POSITIONS MADE KNOWN DURING
GROMYKO'S LAST WASHINGTON VISIT.

NESTERENKO CONCLUDED THAT US AND SOVIET POSITIONS
ON THE SESSION SEEM SIMILAR, AND THE SOVIET DELEGATION
HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE
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US DELEGATION. (STATE)

2. MEDIA REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S PARIS VISIT:

--MOSCOW: RADIO MOSCOW DESCRIBED THE MEETING WITH PODGORNYY AS "BUSINESSLIKE AND CONSTRUCTIVE", AND SAID THE TWO LEADERS DISCUSSED SEVERAL ISSUES, PARTICULARLY THE MIDDLE EAST, IN LIGHT OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S UPCOMING VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION.

--BRUSSELS: BELGIAN TELEVISION GAVE THE PRESIDENT MORE COVERAGE THAN ANY OTHER HEAD OF STATE AND CALLED HIM THE "STAR" OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

--HELSINKI: THE MEDIA GAVE HEAVY COVERAGE TO THE FUNERAL AND THE PRESIDENT'S ATTENDANCE. HEADLINES READ: "NIXON IS ARRANGING A SUMMIT MEETING IN PARIS."

--BELGRADE: COVERAGE INCLUDED THE PRESIDENT'S MEETINGS WITH HEADS OF STATE AND THE COMMENT "PRESIDENT NIXON INSISTED ON GREATER CONSULTATION WITHIN NATO."

--THE HAGUE: LEADING MORNING AND AFTERNOON PAPERS GAVE THE PRESIDENT FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE. RADIO AND TELEVISION COVERAGE WAS CONSIDERABLE. (STATE/TICKER)

3. BRANDT CALLS FOR A "REVITALIZED" ATLANTIC ALLIANCE: FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON, CHANCELLOR BRANDT SAID THAT IF EUROPEANS "PULL UP THEIR SOCKS A BIT", THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE CAN BE REVITALIZED. HE ADDED THAT PRESIDENT NIXON WANTS THE ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP STRAIGHTENED OUT NO MATTER HOW PRESENT MISUNDERSTANDINGS AROSE. (TICKER)

4. QADHAFI'S POWER IS UNAFFECTED BY NEW ROLE: REPORTS OF QADHAFI'S ECLIPSE BY PRIME MINISTER JALUD ARE PREMATURE. THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF TENSION IN TRIPOLI, NOR ANY INDICATION THAT THE TURNOVER OF CERTAIN
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DUTIES WAS OTHER THAN A VOLUNTARY STEP BY QADHAFI. SINCE APRIL 2, WHEN THE DECISION WAS MADE TO ALTER HIS ROLE, QADHAFI HAS CONTINUED TO ACT AS THE CHIEF OF STATE IN ALL BUT MATTERS OF PROTOCOL. (STATE)

5. CHINESE OFFICIAL REAFFIRMS GOOD US-PRC RELATIONS: VICE FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-KUA TOLD AMBASSADOR

BRUCE THAT, CONTRARY TO RECENT PRESS SPECULATION, US-PRC RELATIONS ARE GOOD; ALTHOUGH, HE SAID, "MINOR PROBLEMS" ARISE FROM TIME TO TIME, AND CITED THE APPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADOR UNGER TO TAIPEI AND THE EXPANSION OF GRC CONSULAR OFFICES IN THE US.

CHIAO ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER PROSPECTS FOR EUROPEAN COHESION, AND URGED CONTINUED US EFFORTS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, STRESSING THAT IT WOULD BE A MAJOR SOVIET GAIN IF THE US FAILED.
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